

Daniel Johnson House
State Route 154
Paris Vicinity
Monroe County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1211

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1211

DANIEL JOHNSON HOUSE

Location: 1.2 miles south of State Route 154, 0.2 mile south of the Elk Fork of the Salt River, about 4 miles southeast of Paris, Monroe County, Missouri.

USCS Paris East 7-1/2' Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.590120.4365850.

Present Owner: United States of America, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (August 1978).

Present Use: Vacant. Located in the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir Project Area.

Significance: The Daniel Johnson House is an example of the later nineteenth century remodeling of a mid-nineteenth-century log structure. Chimneys, stairs, doors, and windows were repositioned, and the exterior was clapboarded. The original bare whitewashed interior was covered with lath and plaster, and molded door and window frames were installed. The result was a renewed life for the structure and a change to configuration and finish detail to suit changing tastes and ways of living.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1840-45.
 2. Architect/builder: It is assumed that Daniel Johnson built the house.
 3. Original and subsequent owners: The Daniel Johnson House is located in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 30, Township 54 North, Range 9 West. The following references are from the deed books in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Monroe County Courthouse, Paris, Missouri.
- 1821 Plat Book, May 8, 1821. Recorded in the original plat book for Monroe County. To Mary Johnson, 180 acres.
- 1821- Mary Johnson, widow of John Johnson, married Otho Adams in 1827 and moved to his farm in the Sections 2 and 3, about five miles to the northeast. Daniel H. Johnson, a son by her first husband, married in 1844 and about this time

returned to his mother's land in Section 30 and constructed a house. The children of Otho and Mary (Johnson) Adams conveyed their interests in the Section 30 land to their half-brother, Daniel Johnson, in 1873.

- 1873 Warranty Deed, September 3, 1873. Recorded in Book 9, page 553. Mary Adams, Jane A. Adams, Mary E. Adams, Samuel O. Adams, Sarah F. Adams, Joseph A. Adams and Eugenia H. Adams to Daniel H. Johnson. 160 Acres for \$1120.
- 1881 Daniel Johnson died in 1881, leaving the house and land to his widow and children.
- 1892 Warranty Deed, January 9, 1892. Recorded in Book 33, page 407. Margaret J. Johnson, T.A. and A.F. Johnson, T.M. and Sallie F. Johnson, W.A. and Sallie A. Johnson, S.G. and Emma Johnson, Ida B. and Everett Masterson, Elizabeth and A.E. Tanzey to J.D. Johnson. 140 acres for \$2100.
- 1892 Warranty Deed, January 9, 1892. Recorded in Book 36, page 259. J.D. and Ella Johnson to S.G. and W.A. Johnson. Two-thirds interest 140 acres, except for 20 acres, for \$600.
- 1892 Warranty Deed, October 26, 1892. Recorded in Book 37, page 201. J.D. and Ella Johnson, S.G. and Emma Johnson, S.A. and Sallie Johnson to W.M. Coppage and W.T. Miller. 140 acres, except for 20, for \$3000.
- 1896 Warranty Deed, July 7, 1896. Recorded in Book 40, page 500. William T. Miller to John F. Parsons. One-half interest in 140 acres, except 20, for \$1500.
- 1896 Warranty Deed, July 28, 1896. Recorded in Book 40, page 516. John F. Parsons and A.M. Parsons to W.M. Coppage. One-half interest in 140 acres, except 20, for \$1500.
- The property apparently passed to the widow of W.M. Coppage, Mayme, on his death.
- 1965 Deed by Guardian, April 12, 1965. Recorded in Book 139, page 223. Mayme Coppage, by guardian, J.B. Sproul, to Anna Fay Dill. 160 acres for \$6500.
- 1965 Warranty Deed, April 12, 1965. Recorded in Book 139, page 225. Anna Fay Dill to Joe and Odetha Tawney. 160 acres for \$1.
- 1974 Warranty Deed, March 15, 1974. Recorded in Book 167, page 139. Odetha P. Tawney to the United States of America. 128.23 acres for \$39,000.

4. Original plan and construction: The house constructed for Daniel Johnson about 1840 was^a double-pen (two-room), single-pile (one-room deep), story-and-a-half log structure. The two rooms on each story were just under 17' square. The second story was probably reached by a stairway against the west side of the center log wall. On the east end wall was a large fireplace with an external stone chimney.
5. Alterations and additions: The first addition to the house was most likely the kitchen, a one-story unit approximately 15' square centered on the rear (north) elevation. A door was cut near the northwest corner of the east room, to provide access to the kitchen. An open porch was added at the northeast corner of the house. Doors from both the kitchen and parlor led to this porch. The porch was later enclosed and finished with lath-and-plaster.

A definitive date for a further series of alterations cannot be determined. However, physical evidence (in the form of structural changes using standard milled pine lumber and wire nails) suggests that the house was altered during the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. Alterations were made, as follows:

The building was heightened to a full two stories, with the original hewn rafter plate serving as the sill for a series of wall studs. The entire roof structure was replaced, probably at the same time that the wall was raised.

A center entry hall was created by the construction of a stud wall about 4' west of the original log wall which divided the two front rooms. At the same time the original stair was replaced by a straight-run stair. A door leading into each of the two main rooms was placed at the bottom of the stair, the east one being cut south of its original location in the center log wall. A stove flue was placed west of the stairway against the stud partition. The stove flue east of the stairway against the center log wall appears to be older. At some time the exterior end chimney on the east end wall of the house was removed, and windows on both levels were cut into the walls in the void left by the chimney. A center entrance was cut on the facade, leading into the entry/stairhall. What were apparently the two original doors were reframed into windows, and what were apparently the original windows flanking these doors were framed up and covered by weatherboard siding, probably at the same time that the entire house was sided. The windows and doorways on the first floor were all framed with molded casings with bull's-eye corner blocks, and on the second, with plain casings. A porch on the front of the house, extending between the windows, was constructed after the center door was cut.

Other more recent alterations and additions include the construction of a concrete slab east of the porch door, the removal of the front

porch, the replacement of floorboards in the first-floor east room in the log section, the framing-in of the door on the rear wall of the first-floor west room in the log section, and the addition of asphalt shingles on the roofs.

B. Historical Persons and Events Associated with the House:

John Johnson (ca. 1800-1826) married Mary Smith (1801-1878) in Bath County, Kentucky, in June 1819. They moved to Ralls County, Missouri, (the portion that would become Monroe County) within the year, and their son Daniel H. Johnson was born in June 1820. John Johnson died in 1826, and his widow was remarried in November 1827, to Otho Adams (1801-1865). Daniel Johnson was raised on the Adams farm about five miles to the northeast. Shortly before or after his marriage in 1844, to Margaret J. Woolridge, he returned to his own father's land in Section 30, by the Elk Fork of the Salt River, and built this house. He lived until 1881.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary Sources:

Mason, Roger D., Stoutsville, Missouri. Letter to J.A. Chewning, August 27, 1979, containing title and genealogical information on Johnson and Adams families. Mason is the Archivist for the University of Nebraska's Cannon Reservoir Human Ecology Project.

Miller, Mrs. Vern, Paris, Missouri. Personal interview, August 19, 1978. Mrs. Miller lived in the house from 1925 to 1932.

"U.S. Census Records, 1850." Dulaney Memorial Library, Paris, Missouri.

Wilkerson, Mrs. Gilbert, Paris, Missouri. Telephone conversation, August 18, 1978. Mrs. Wilkerson was a member of the Coppage family, who owned the house in the twentieth century.

b. Secondary Sources: None consulted.

Prepared by: Travis C. McDonald
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Built during the initial settlement of the area and later modified, the Daniel Johnson house is a double-pen, single-pile, two-story dwelling. It shows the combination of original log construction and later nineteenth century interior finish carpentry.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. Weathering and vandalism have had a serious effect on the building.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Original log house: 36'-5" (three-bay front)
by 18'-6"
Frame addition: 26'-2" by 16'-3"
2. Foundations: Limestone rubble set in continuous perimeter walls around the building with intermediate piers beneath the log dividing wall between the two rooms in the original section. The stone foundation of the rear wing has been given a coating of cement. Small crawl-space vents--consisting of framed holes in the stone walls, are located on the east and west ends of the log building.
3. Walls: Horizontal weatherboards (4-1/2" exposure), with plain cornerboards, cover all of the exterior walls of the house. The logs on the original section were at one time exposed.
4. Structural system: Original section: Bearing walls of white oak logs, hewn on both inside and outside surfaces to a thickness of 7" and joined at the corners by V-notches. The wide interstices have been chinked with limestone chips, diagonally set, and daubed with sandy mortar. The intersection of the exterior walls with the center log wall dividing the two rooms has a hewn V-notch center-join which incorporates the interior wall logs. The height of the log walls has been increased by construction of a stud wall (milled pine 2 x 4s, 16" on center) above the original rafter plate (hewn oak 6-1/2" by 7-1/2"). The roof structure is pine (2x4 rafters and ceiling joists, 24" on center) and is a later addition. First-floor joists are 8"-diameter white oak logs which rest upon massive plates at the outside walls. The top surfaces of the logs have been hewn flat, and they span the depth of the building without intermediate support. Second floor joists are milled oak 2 x 8s, 16" on center.

Frame addition: Light wood framing, using milled pine lumber. Cut nails are used in the original sections of the log cabin, wire nails in the later alterations to the cabin and in the frame addition.

5. Porches: An enclosed porch (originally open) is located at the northeast corner of the house. The open porch once located on the south (front) wall no longer remains. A large tooled limestone block serves as the front doorstep.
6. Chimneys: The original chimney for the cabin, a stone exterior end chimney centered on the east wall, has been removed. Four plain, brick stove chimneys, two in the original cabin and two in the rear wing, serve the building. The two chimneys in the log section are interior chimneys and are approximately centered on the ridge on either side of the stairhall. The two chimneys in the rear addition are interior end chimneys, one centered on the ridge and one near the northeast corner of the porch. The flues extend to the floor in the log section. In the frame section they are supported by elbow braces.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One doorway is located to the left of center on the south (front) wall. It has a plain-board exterior casement with slip sill and plain drip mold. The pine door has nine molded panels beneath a square window light and three above. Within a plain frame on the west wall of the frame addition is a door with a large square window light and three panels below.
 - b. Windows: Windows in the log section--two on each floor on the south (front) wall and one on each floor on the east and west end walls--have two-over-two, double hung sash. In the frame section there are four-over-four, double hung windows, about the same size as those in the front section. Both types of windows have plain frames with dripcaps and slip sills.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Both the log section and the kitchen section of the rear wing have gable roofs. The enclosed porch (dining room) in the frame section is covered with a lower-pitched extension of the kitchen roof. Earlier wood shingles on all surfaces have been covered with asphalt shingles.

c. Cornice: Plain-board soffits and frieze boards throughout.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The house originally had two rooms, approximately 17' square, on each floor. The first- and second-floor west rooms were later narrowed by the construction of a stairhall against the original center log wall dividing the two rooms. A one-story kitchen, approximately 15' square, is centered on the rear wall of the house, and is entered from a door in the east room (living room). A porch, later enclosed to serve as a dining room, fills in the northeast corner of the house.
2. Stairways: A straight-run stair ascends south-to-north in the off-center stair hall. It is constructed of plain pine boards.
3. Flooring: The floor in the first-floor west room has oak floorboards, surface nailed; in the first-floor east room, pine boards, blind nailed. On the second floor, both bedrooms have pine floorboards, surface nailed.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Interior walls and ceilings in both sections of the house generally consist of lath-and-plaster, covered with patterned wallpaper. The only exception is the ceiling of the enclosed porch, which consists of beaded boards.
5. Doorways and doors: the interior doorways, as well as the interior frames for the windows, on the first floor of the log section have molded casings with bull's-eye corner clocks and (door frames only) bull's-eye plinth blocks. Window and door frames on the second floor and in the rear wing are plain. Interior doors are primarily four-panel. There are vertical plank doors in a couple of locations.
6. Decorative features and trim: The walls in the first floor rooms of the log section are lined with molded baseboards with shoes; those in the rest of the rooms with plain baseboards with shoes.
7. Mechanical systems: The house has been serviced by electricity, but not plumbing. Heating was by stoves.

D. Description of Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Daniel Johnson House is located in a bottom area formed by a bow of the Elk Fork of the Salt River. Beyond the river, to the north is a heavily forested ridge. The house faces south within a fenced enclosure. The road enters to the south of this enclosure. To the southeast is a spring and beyond that, a small creek. Adjoining the house yard to the west

was a small garden. North of the garden was a grape arbor, and farther north was an orchard of apple, plum and peach trees. Open fields surround the farmstead on all sides.

2. Outbuildings: Three outbuildings remain: a barn, corn crib and cellar. Other outbuildings no longer standing include another barn, a chicken house, a smokehouse and a privy.

Prepared by: Clayton Fraser
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 11593, as a part of mitigation efforts connected with the construction in the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir Project Area, in portions of Monroe and Ralls County, Missouri. The project was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1978 by Clayton B. Fraser, Project Supervisor; William T. Morgan (University of South Florida) and Travis C. McDonald (University of Virginia), Architectural Historians; Barbara A. Hendricks (University of Texas), Project Foreman; and Student Architects Dwight H. Burns (Texas Tech University), W. Michael Coppa (University of Virginia), Stephen H. Lauf (Temple University), and Michael K. Murdock (University of Texas). The data was edited in August 1979 by J.A. Chewning, Architectural Historian in the HABS Washington office. Photographs were taken by David J. Kaminsky in August 1978 and by William C. Haines between February and May 1979.